

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing building options, comprising:

obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a choice for a new building option for constructing the new building;

causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user;

providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user;

providing performance information electronically on the at least one unavailable new building option to the second user;

obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option;

displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and

providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the at least one available new building option is obtained electronically.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the at least one choice is provided to the first user electronically.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first user inputs the indication of the at least one available new building option at a first computing unit and

the second user inputs the indication of the at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option at a second computing unit coupled to the first computing unit via a communications network.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein the communications network is a global computer network.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one available new building option comprises at least one building component.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising electronically providing information on the at least one available building component to the second user.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the at least one available building component comprises a household appliance, and wherein the information comprises information relating to the household appliance.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the information comprises pricing information.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the information comprises an image of the household appliance.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the information comprises performance information of the household appliance.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 12~~ claim 8, wherein the information comprises product category information.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one available option is electronically accessible to the second user upon the second user electronically transmitting the valid authorization including a valid password.

15. (currently amended) A system of managing building options, comprising:

a first processor adapted to obtain from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option and at least one unavailable new building option, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a choice for a new building option; and

a second processor adapted to allow performance information on the at least one available new building option and the at least one unavailable new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, said second processor adapted to display electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user.

16. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein said first user inputs said indication of the at least one available new building option at a first computing unit and said second user inputs said indication of the at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option at a second computing unit coupled to the first computing unit via a communications network.

17. (original) The system of claim 16, wherein the communications network is a global computer network.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one available new building option comprises at least one building component.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein said processor is adapted to electronically provide information on the at least one building component to said second user.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein said at least one building component comprises a household appliance, and wherein said information comprises information relating to said household appliance.

21. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information comprises pricing information.

22. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information comprises an image of said household appliance.

23. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein said information comprises performance information of said household appliance.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein said first processor is adapted to allow the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user, said second processor adapted to obtain electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option, and said second processor adapted to provide the at least one choice to said first user.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of managing building options, said method comprising:

obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a choice for a new building option for constructing the new building;

causing the at least one available option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user;

providing information electronically on the at least one available new building option to the second user;

providing performance information electronically on the at least one unavailable new building option to the second user;

obtaining electronically from the second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option;

displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and

providing the indication of the at least one choice to the first user.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said indication of the at least one available new building option is obtained electronically.

29. (original) The device of claim 27, wherein said indication of the at least one choice is provided to said first user electronically.

30. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said first user inputs said indication of the at least one available new building option at a first computing unit and said second user inputs said indication of the at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option at a second computing unit coupled to the first computing unit via a communications network.

31. (original) The device of claim 30, wherein the communications network is a global computer network.

32. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein the at least one available new building option comprises at least one building component.

33. (original) The device of claim 32, wherein said method further comprises electronically providing information on the at least one building component to said second user.

34. (original) The device of claim 33, wherein said at least one building component comprises a household appliance, and wherein said information comprises information relating to said household appliance.

35. (original) The device of claim 34, wherein said information comprises pricing information.

36. (original) The device of claim 34, wherein said information comprises an image of said household appliance.

37. (original) The device of claim 34, wherein said information comprises performance information of said household appliance.

38. (previously presented) The device of claim 27, wherein said method of managing building options further comprises electronically providing information on the at least one available new building option to said second user.

39. (original) The device of claim 38, wherein said information comprises general product category information.

40. (canceled)

41. (currently amended) A system for managing building options comprising:

means for obtaining from a first user an indication of at least one available new building option for constructing a new building and at least one unavailable new building option for constructing the new building, the at least one unavailable new building option not being offered as a choice for a new building option for constructing the new building;

means for causing the at least one available new building option to be electronically accessible to a second user upon electronic transmission of a valid authorization by the second user;

means for providing information electronically on the at least one new building option to said second user;

means for providing performance information electronically on the at least one unavailable new building option to said second user;

means for obtaining electronically from said second user an indication of at least one choice from among the at least one available new building option;

means for displaying electronically, based upon the indication of the at least one choice, an amount of money remaining in a designated budget; and

means for providing the indication of the at least one choice to said first user.